

# Christmas: A Time to CELEBRATE!

*A response to that diverse and disapproving company of censorious and contentious Scrooges, Grinches, and general killjoys...*



*“And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.’” — Luke 2:13-14 (NASB)*

**Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA**  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>, AD 2023**

# The LORD'S Day

The Tenth Day of December, *in the Year of our Lord 2023*

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Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



## Sunday School—9:30 AM.



“THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IS THE CENTRAL EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH – THE VERY THING THE WHOLE STORY HAS BEEN ABOUT.”

—C. S. LEWIS

## Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship: \* *“Go Tell it on the Mountain”* (#127, Chorus).

Invocation.\*

Hymn: *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* (#130; vv. 1, 3, 4).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:8-20*.

Prayer, Praises, and Testimony.

Hymn: *“There’s a Song in the Air”* (#121).

Announcements.

Hymn: *“Angels we Have Heard on High”* (#136).

Dismissal of Youth for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“CHRISTMAS: TIME TO CELEBRATE”*

Closing Hymn: \* *“Joy to the World”* (#117).

Benediction.\*



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\*The Congregation will please arise, if able.



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## Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study: 6:30 PM



Please join us for our midweek service, as we are beginning to study the beloved narrative of Daniel and the Lion's Den (Dan. 6).



### Week of Dec. 3 – Dec. 9

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—15;  
Midweek—4; Weekly Offering—\$938.00

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## Africa Update



From: Pastor Keith Merriman; Dateline: Dec. 4, 2023.

Dear beloved brethren,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. Pastor Daniel Miller and I have a trip planned to Africa Jan. 16-Feb 15. We are having difficulty getting online visas; please pray that we can work out the bugs to be able to obtain our visas. They only do them online now.

Pastor Salomon is feeling better and back to his normal activities. Thanks for your prayers.

God bless, Keith



Our special candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be on **Sunday evening, Dec. 24**, at **7:00 PM**. Please invite friends to share in the worship of our wonderful Savior and in the warmth of traditional carols, special readings, and in the glow of our collective fellowship.

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Cover art: *"The Season of the Grinch"* by Pastor Terry L. Reese

## A LETTER OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

*I found an old Christmas Letter from Dr. John C. Whitcomb addressed unto the Conservative Grace Brethren, dated Dec. 15, 2016. This letter succinctly reminds us of the basic facts as to WHY we celebrate!*

Dear Friends,



At this Christmas season, Christians all over the world are celebrating a spectacular event about 2,000 years ago in a small village near Jerusalem. The Creator of the entire universe became a permanent member of the human race (John 1:3, Col. 1:16). Why did God's one and only Son do this? It was to represent us on a cruel cross of wood for three hours of infinite suffering so that all who believe in Him might have everlasting life (John 19:30, John 3:14-17). Now the big question: How could God's eternal Son become a human being? Answer: By entering the body of a woman whose name was Mary. When God told her that this would happen, she replied: **“How can this be since I am a virgin?”** (Luke 1:34). The answer was astounding, and is recorded by Luke, the highly respected historian (Luke 1:1-40) and “beloved physician” (Col. 4:14): **“The Holy Spirit** [the third Person of the triune Godhead] **will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God... For nothing will be impossible with God”** (Luke 1:35-37). Please note here the ultimate marvel: the reason why her child would be **“holy”** (i.e., without a sin nature) is not because she was holy – for Mary confessed her need of a Savior (Luke 1:47; cf. 11:28; 18:19) – but because the Holy Spirit would **“come upon”** her and **“overshadow”** her. The stupendous miracle of the incarnation – a divine Person adding a true human nature to His personhood without becoming two persons – was essential for our salvation. Jesus Christ was not just a man, not even a sinless man like Adam before his fall, but one Person who was both God and man. Therefore He was fully capable of paying for the sins of the entire human race when He died upon a cross. **“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete”** (Col. 2:9-10). May He be honored in each of our hearts – perhaps as never before – during this Christmas season!—Dr. John C. Whitcomb